

## Testimony

### HB 6879: AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER CERTIFICATION

As a long-time Connecticut school and district leader, I believe there is great urgency in engaging in a comprehensive review of Connecticut's system for preparing and certifying educators. It is important to have a comprehensive review due to cumbersome rules and processes that have led to confusion and often frustration on the part of educators and school districts.

It is an ideal time for Connecticut to create a system for preparing and certifying educators that builds a robust, diverse, effective educator workforce. In addition, the system needs to support all school districts to efficiently welcome and onboard candidates beginning their careers, looking to make a career change, or relocating to ensure that every Connecticut student has access to the effective, diverse educators that they need and deserve.

As a leading state in education, we need a vision for a modernized approach to preparing, recruiting, supporting, and retaining an effective educator workforce that emphasizes the knowledge, skills, and experiences students need and the much needed diversity in the educator profession. In partnership with the Connecticut State Department of Education, we need to identify statutory and regulatory changes that would be needed in order to make this vision a reality for Connecticut.

Having served on several state-wide committees, a cross-disciplinary Commission would be an important next step. Given the complexities of the current system, the comprehensive modernization of the system must include input from stakeholder groups and access to state and national research to guide informed decision-making that is future-focused.

Having worked in partnership with the Center for Public Research and Leadership (CPRL) for several years, I believe the inclusion of CPRL in the Commission will enrich the process through their policy knowledge, legal expertise, and ongoing partnership with stakeholders across Connecticut. In fact, CPRL has already spoken to over 150 pre-service educators, teachers, and school and system-level administrators to understand how the state's current approach to certification poses a barrier to building and sustaining an effective and diverse workforce and what design features educators recommend should be present in a modernized statewide educator workforce strategy.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of HB 6879: An Act Concerning Teacher Certification.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen C. Greider, Superintendent, Farmington Public Schools